



Memorandum

TO: Historic Landmarks Commission

FROM: Courtney Damkroger

SUBJECT: Historic Landmark Nomination
Arthur Monroe Free House
66 S. 14th Street

DATE: February 27, 2002

APPROVED:

DATE:

BACKGROUND

The property owner, William G. Robson, submitted an Historic Landmark Nomination form for designation of the Arthur M. Free House located at 66 S. 14th Street within the Naglee Park Conservation Area. The subject property is zoned R-1-8 and designated Medium Low Density Residential on the San Jose 2020 General Plan Land Use and Transportation Diagram.

At the January 9, 2002 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, the Commission reviewed and voted to support the National Register of Historic Places nomination for this building. On February 1, 2002, the State Historic Resources Commission recommended that this building be added to the National Register based on Criterion B, the building's association with Arthur M. Free.

ANALYSIS

The Free House is a two-story frame residential building constructed in 1905 in the Arts and Crafts architectural style. The structure incorporates features associated with several well-recognized Bay Area architects practicing at this time, including Julia Morgan, Bernard Maybeck and Willis Polk. It is situated within the historic Naglee Park Conservation Area, on the site of Brigadier General Naglee's vineyards.

Arthur Free purchased the house in 1919 and resided there until his death in 1953. During his lifetime, he served as City Attorney for the city of Mountain View and served as District Attorney for the County of Santa Clara for three terms. He was active in the Republican party and elected to Congress, serving six terms. While in Congress, Free introduced and successfully campaigned for the federal statute creating Moffett Field in Mountain View, California, now occupied by NASA. While in Congress, he was also a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries as well as the Immigration and Naturalization committees.

The Free House exceeded the qualifying rating for City Landmark status based on the City of San Jose evaluation sheet (enclosed). The home earned points for its associations with people of significance as well as for its architectural significance and context. The building also earned

extra points since it was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and consequently the California Register of Historic Resources.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Historic Landmarks Commission recommend that the City Council initiate proceedings for the Landmark designation process.

Courtney Damkroger
Historic Preservation Officer

Attachments

- National Register Nomination form
- City of San Jose Tally

PBCE/oo2/historic/3-6-02/ Free House HL nomination

PCE002/Historic/3-6-02/Free House HL nomination

